GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
MOU WITH WORLD BANK
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Chief has mooted a `partnership beyond loan` between the bank and the Indian Governmentto help internet reach out to people;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the other issues discussed with the Chief of World Bank related to IT`;

(d) whether any MOU has been signed with the World Bank in the field of IT;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time frame worked out for the implementation thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f): There was a discussion on IT related issues between the President, World Bank and the Minister of Information Technology in their meeting held on 14th November, 2000 at New Delhi. No MOUwas signed. The discussions, inter-alia, included the following:
(i) The World Bank Presidentdiscussed setting up of a Global Centre for conducting research in India, which would serve as an exchange house for all the work that has taken place in the world for making IT relevant for the poor. This was appreciated by the Minister of Information Technology.

(ii) The World Bank President was apprised of the scheme for setting up Community Information Centres in the North Eastern States.

(iii) The impact of ITrevolution on India and its economy was discussed. The contribution of Indian ITprofessionals to the wealth of other nations, which was resulting in the Indian education system subsidising the resource requirements of the World IT industry was highlighted.